

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

MBFR-04 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 H-03 ACDA-19 IO-13 OIC-04

AEC-11 OMB-01 DRC-01 /161 W
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INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4258

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR-PUBLIC AFFAIRS ASPECTS

REF: USNATO 4208 (NOTAL)

1. DURING FURTHER SENIOR POLADS DISCUSSION SEPTEMBER 11 OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS POLICY FOR MBFR NEGOTIATIONS, NETHERLANDS REP (BUWALDA) ADVISED THAT NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NEED INFORM PUBLIC ON MBFR AND PRESS LEAKS THUS FAR OF ELEMENTS OF ALLIED POSITION, HAD DECIDED TO INCLUDE FOLLOWING SENTENCE ON MBFR IN ANNUAL BUDGET MESSAGE TO PARLIAMENT WHICH WILL BE RELEASED SEPTEMBER 18: "GENERALLY SPEAKING, IT IS LOGICAL TO PRESUME THAT NOTABLY THE TWO SUPERPOWERS HAVING FORCES STATIONED IN CENTRAL EUROPE WILL START WITH REDUCTIONS OF THEIR FORCES." (COMMENT: BUWALDA SUBSEQUENTLY EXPLAINED THAT ABOVE TEXT WAS LITERAL, AND PERHAPS NOT ENTIRELY ELEGANT TRANSLATION FROM DUTCH. END COMMENT). IN PRESENTING ABOVE TEXT, BUWALDA SAID HE BELIEVED THAT IT WAS TOO LATE TO MAKE ANY CHANGES IN GON'S PLAN TO INCLUDE SENTENCE ON MBFR OR IN SPECIFIC TEXT ITSELF.

2. US REP SAID HE BELIEVED NETHERLANDS INTENTION MAKE STATEMENT CONFIDENTIAL

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CALLED ATTENTION TO URGENT NEED FOR ALLIES TO REACH AGREEMENT ON MBFR PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY. ALTERNATIVE, US REP SUGGESTED, WAS PIECEMEAL PRESENTATION OF ALLIED POSITIONS BY VARIOUS ALLIES RESULTING EVENTUALLY IN THOROUGHGOING PUBLIC DESCRIPTION OF WESTERN

PROPOSAL.

3. CANADIAN REP (ROY) NOTED THAT OTTAWA HAD ORIGINALLY INTENDED, AS REPORTED REFTTEL, TO USE OPENING STATEMENTS IN VIENNA AS VEHICLE FOR INFORMING PUBLIC OF MBFR POSITION. HOWEVER, IN VIEW NETHERLANDS ACTION, ROY SAID HE THOUGHT OTTAWA MIGHT BE INCLINED TO MAKE SOME STATEMENT PRIOR TO OPENING OF TALKS. FRG REP (HOYNCK) RECALLED WELL-KNOWN FRG POSITION ON IMPORTANCE OF LINK BETWEEN PHASE ONE AND PHASE TWO OF AND MBFR AGREEMENTS AND SAID HE THOUGHT STATEMENT PLANNED BY DUTCH MIGHT BE DAMAGING TO FRG POSITION.

4. UK REP (LEVER) ASKED WHETHER SENTENCE ON MBFR WOULD IN FACT BE PRESENTED IN LARGER CONTEXT OF NETHERLANDS BUDGET MESSAGE AND THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE PRESENTED AS NATO POLICY. BUWALDA CONFIRMED THAT SENTENCE WOULD NOT BE GIVEN ANY SEPARATE TREATMENT AND THAT NO NATO LABEL WOULD BE ATTACHED TO IT. ITALIAN REP SAID HE BELIEVED ROME WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO DUTCH STATEMENT BUT SAID HE HOPED SUCH STATEMENTS COULD BE KEPT TO A MINIMUM. COMMITTEE AGREED THAT GENERAL SUBJECT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY WOULD BE TENTATIVELY PLACED ON AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 18 MEETING.

5. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH RELATIVELY INNOCUOUS IN ITSELF, NETHERLANDS STATEMENT IS UNFORTUNATE IN THAT IT REPRESENTS UNILATERAL AND UNCOORDINATED ALLIED STATEMENT ON IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF MBFR POSITION. IN VIEW OF BUWALDA'S REMARK THAT GON WAS RESOLVED TO GO AHEAD WITH INCLUSION OF SENTENCE ON MBFR IN BUDGET MESSAGE, WE JUDGE THAT INTERVENTION IN THE HAGUE WILL BE NECESSARY IF WE WISH TO HEAD IT OFF. WOULD APPRECIATE INSTRUCTIONS REFERRED TO IN STATE 177089, IF POSSIBLE BY SEPTEMBER 18.
RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

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